

Serial No. 10/550,729

H&amp;C-122

Amendment

Responsive to Office Action dated November 21, 2008

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****FEB 17 2009****Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An operating arm for a construction machine for use as a front part of a construction machine comprising; ~~said operating arm being constituted by~~ \_\_\_\_\_ a plural number of joined plates ~~and in the shape of a square tubular structure of a square shape in cross section, characterized in that;~~

wherein said plural number of joined plates include ~~includes~~ a plurality of flat thin plates to be formed into flat sections of said square tubular structure and a plurality of thick corner plates, being wherein each of said plurality of thick corner plates is greater in thickness in a flat shape than said flat thin plates, and said thick corner plates are integrally connected ~~joined-side to side with said flat thin plates, said thick corner plates each having beforehand and bent into a convexly curved shape portions extending between said sides of said thick plates that forms afterwards to form one corner portions of said square tubular structure.~~

2. (Currently Amended) An operating arm for a construction machine according to as defined in claim 1, wherein said integral connection of said thick corner plates and said flat thin plates are joined together by side to side butt welding to form ~~are butt welds forming~~ a wide plate-like material having alternately thick and thin wall portions extending in a transverse direction, said wide plate-like material being bent curved shapes along said thick corner plates to form ~~forming~~ a U-shaped structure in cross section for use as a part of said square tubular structure.

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3. (Currently Amended) An operating arm for a construction machine ~~as defined in according to claim 1, wherein said integral connection of said flat thin plates and said thick corner plates are joined by side-to-side butt welding welds such that~~ and surfaces of said flat thin plates are positioned flush with said thick corner plates on one side in the direction of thickness but indented from said thick corner plates on the other side in the direction of thickness.

4. (Currently Amended) An operating arm for a construction machine ~~as defined in according to claim 1, wherein said integral connection of said flat thin plates and said thick corner plates are joined together by side-to-side butt welds and welding such that~~ surfaces of said flat thin plates are indented from said thick corner plates on one side in the direction of thickness but positioned flush with said thick corner plates on the other side in the direction of thickness.

5. (Currently Amended) An operating arm for a construction machine ~~as defined in according to claim 1, wherein said integral connection of said flat thin plates and said thick corner plates are joined together by side-to-side butt welding such that welds and~~ surfaces of said flat thin plates are indented from said thick corner plates on both sides in the direction of thickness.

6. (Currently Amended) An operating arm for a construction machine ~~as defined in according to claim 1, further comprising a boss mounting thick plate to be formed a~~ boss mount member of said front part is joined with one longitudinal end of said flat thin plates and thick corner plates of said square tubular structure prior to a bending operation,

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said boss mounting thick plate being bent into U-shape simultaneously with said thick corner plates.

7. (Currently Amended) An operating arm for a construction machine ~~as defined~~  
in accordance to claim 6, wherein said boss mounting thick plate is substantially of the  
same thickness as said thick corner plates.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)